

Word invasion



When the Vikings invaded, they brought their old Norse language with them. Believe it or not, we still use many Viking words today!



Modern English	Old Norse
Thursday	<i>bolli</i> , meaning 'round object'
ugly	<i>slatra</i> , meaning 'to butcher'
window	<i>angr</i> , meaning 'grief'
husband	<i>rangr</i> , meaning 'crooked' or 'unjust'
ball	<i>vindauga</i> , meaning 'wind-eye'
call	<i>Thor's Day</i> , the day of the week belonging to Thor, the Norse god of thunder.
slaughter	<i>husbondi</i> , meaning 'house holder'
anger	<i>skie</i> , meaning 'cloud'
sky	<i>kalla</i> , meaning 'cry loudly'
wrong	<i>uggligr</i> , meaning 'dreadful'



Cut out the modern English words below and match them to the old Norse words and definitions:



Star Challenge: Can you write a sentence using five of the words?

Word invasion



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Cut out the modern English words below and match them to the old Norse words and definitions:



Modern English	Old Norse	Definition
Thursday	<i>bolrr</i>	meaning 'grief'
ugly	<i>slatra</i>	meaning 'cloud'
window	<i>angr</i>	meaning 'round object'
husband	<i>rangr</i>	The day of the week belonging to Thor, the Norse god of thunder.
ball	<i>vindauga</i>	meaning 'cry loudly'
call	<i>Thor's Day</i>	meaning 'crooked' or 'unjust'
slaughter	<i>husbondi</i>	meaning 'dreadful'
anger	<i>skie</i>	meaning 'house holder'
sky	<i>kalla</i>	meaning 'wind-eye'
wrong	<i>uggligr</i>	meaning 'to butcher'



Star Challenge: Can you write a paragraph using all of the words?

Name Date:

Viking surnames

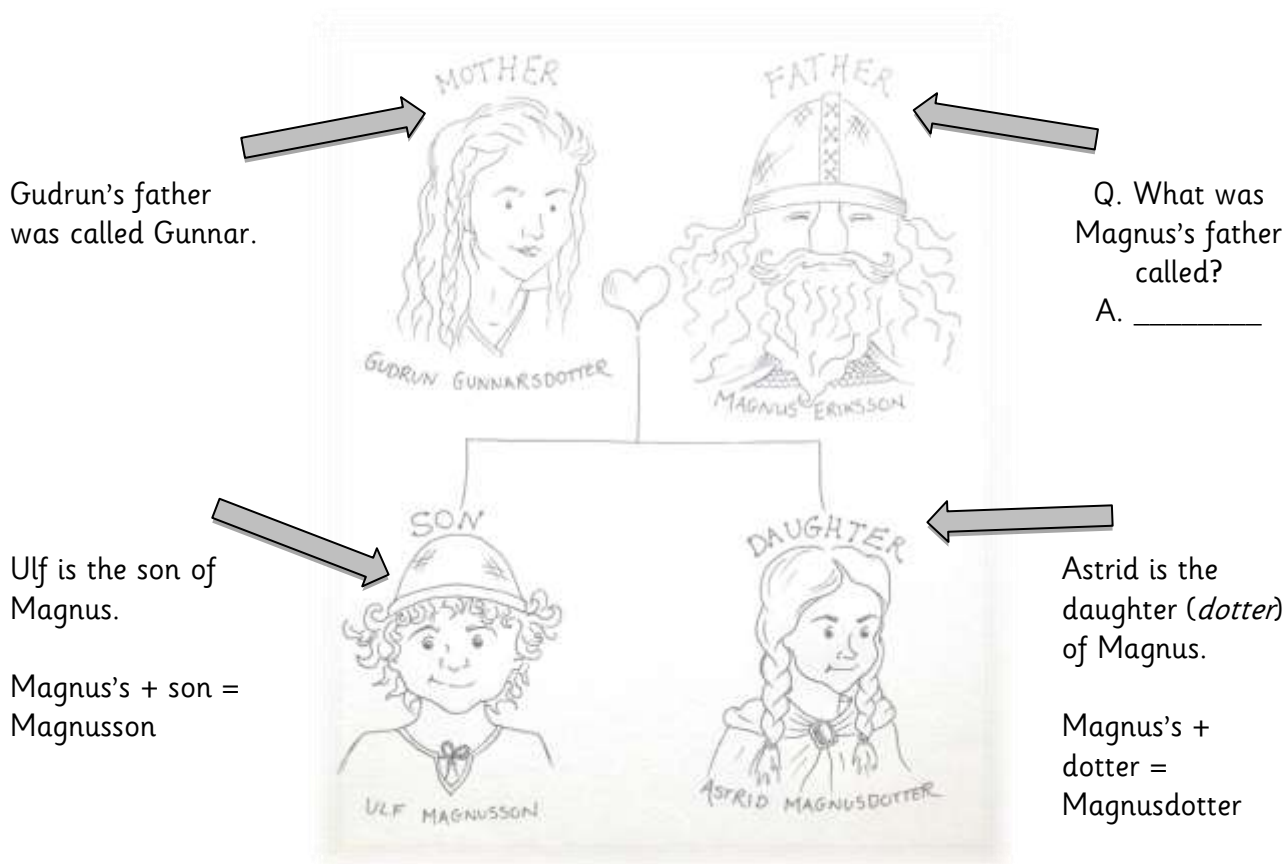
Viking surnames were made up of **two** parts.

The **first** part was your **father's first name** - for example, Sigurd.

The **second** part depended on whether you were **male** or **female**.

If you were a boy, your surname would be 'Sigurdsson' – literally, Sigurd's son.

If you were a girl, your surname would be 'Sigurdsdotter' – Sigurd's daughter.



a) What would your Viking name be?

b) Find out the Viking names for three of your friends:

1.
2.
3.

c) Do you think this naming method is a good idea? Explain why / why not:

.....

Teacher notes

Background

Explain to the children that the Vikings came from the Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They spoke a North Germanic language which we now call 'Old Norse'. When they invaded and settled in Britain, the Anglo-Saxons adopted some of the Old Norse vocabulary and incorporated it into their own language. Thus, many of the modern English words we use today actually came from the Viking invaders!

Starter

To introduce Old Norse language to your class, write the following words clearly on A4 paper and choose children to hold them up: *egg, ransack, berserk, reindeer, Thursday, dirt, cake, happy, skin, bag*. Designate one side of the classroom 'Viking' and the other side 'Not Viking'. Ask the class to decide which are Viking words and which aren't, and send the children holding the words to stand on the corresponding side of the classroom. Ask them the reasons for their choices. Finally, reveal that *all* of the words they are holding actually came from the Vikings! Are they surprised?

Word Invasion

In pairs or independently (depending on ability), children cut out words in modern English and in Old Norse, along with their definitions. Lower ability children have the definitions already attached to the Old Norse words. They must look carefully at the words and match the modern English to the Old Norse and its definition. As a Star Challenge, can they use the words in their own original writing?

Extension

Viking Surnames: children read the worksheet independently to discover how Viking surnames were formed, and then come up with Viking names for themselves and their friends. (Answers will vary.)

Word invasion answers

1. Thursday = Thor's Day, meaning the day of the week belonging to Thor, the Norse God of Thunder.
2. ugly = uggligr, meaning 'dreadful'
3. window = vindauga, meaning 'wind eye'
4. husband = 'husbondi', meaning 'householder'
5. ball = 'bolldr', meaning 'round object'
6. call = 'kalla', meaning 'cry loudly'
7. slaughter = 'slatra', meaning 'to butcher'
8. anger = 'angr', meaning 'grief'
9. sky = 'skie', meaning 'cloud'
10. wrong = 'rangr', meaning 'crooked' or 'unjust'